

Puyallup River Watershed – WRIA 10

This was one of the first major watersheds in the state to undergo intensive industrial and urban development. Similar to many streams perched on glacial out-wash throughout the Puget Sound trough, many of the lowland small tributaries not fed by glaciers experience low flow conditions during late summers and early fall months, especially during periods of below normal precipitation.

Basin hydrology has been significantly altered primary by land use activity beginning with agriculture and logging, hydroelectric dams, and intensive urban, residential, and industrial development. For the 14 year time period between 1980 and 1993 the established minimum instream flow (MIF) of 1000cfs at the lower Puyallup River gage were not met an average of 35 days/year. Annual instream flows are continuing to decline despite establishment of MIF's in 1980; perhaps due to increased impervious surface area and exempt wells, associated with development. Unpermitted water withdrawals are also known to occur throughout the Puyallup River Basin. These unauthorized diversions typically occur during the low flow period, which compound their impacts to migrating and spawning salmonids.

Flows within the White River are diverted at a diversion dam located near Buckley at RM 23.4, through Lake Tapps and discharged back into the river at RM 3.5. Minimum flows within the bypass reach have ranged from 0 to 130cfs, and minimum bypass flows are yet to be established or agreed upon between Puget Sound Energy and resource agencies and Indian nations. Low flows within this bypass reach have resulted in significant impacts to migration, spawning, and rearing of salmonids. Increasing flows within this bypass reach may not be practical due to costs involved and may be better addressed through FERC licensing negotiations or some other venue such as the Lake Tapps Task Force (see below). Opportunities for cost-sharing a larger scale project to address flow problems should be investigated.

Wapato Creek is undergoing conversion from historical agricultural use to commercial, industrial, and residential use. There are surface water rights for up to 12 cfs that is used primarily form irrigation between May and September. There is virtually no remaining intact riparian vegetation and the channel and floodplain have been significantly altered. Salmonid use is currently limited to Simmons Creek which supports marginal habitat. This sub-basin is expected to continue to undergo significant alteration though increasingly intensive land use. There is some question whether flow restoration in this basin is cost-effective due to the expected future conditions associated with urbanization.

White River Hydroelectric Project / Lake Tapps Task Force - NMFS Biological Opinion:

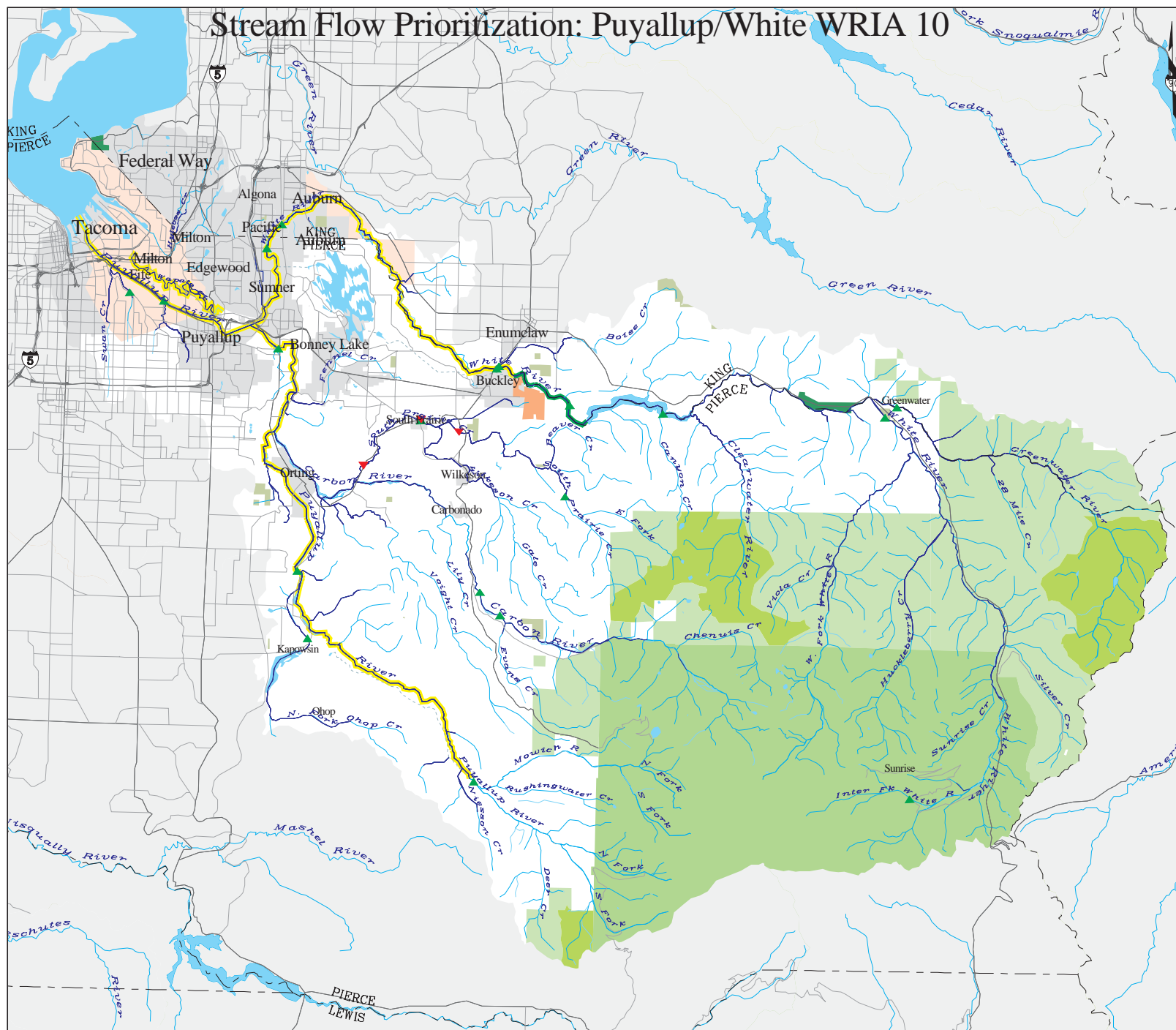
The Lake Tapps Task Force (LTTF) is developing their comments to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the NMFS Preliminary Draft Biological Opinion (PDBO) for the White River Hydroelectric Project. The LTTF would like WDFW to sign, or otherwise endorse their comments to NMFS. The first draft of some of the comments was distributed Friday, November 15, 2002. These comments currently are 54 pages long. LTTF will be finalizing their comments on Thursday, November 21, 2002. They want WDFW's endorsement at that time. The deadline for delivery of comments to NMFS is November 27, 2002.

While the LTTF has modified some of the language in their comments to satisfy concerns raised by Ecology, NMFS, and WDFW, they are not expected to change their comments regarding the water temperature criteria. The LTTF has identified that their temperature criteria recommendations are contrary to the technical opinion expressed by WDFW. So far, no literature has been provided to refute WDFW's or NMFS' literature citations for temperature criteria.

Ed Schild (Puget Sound Energy) is expected to contact Greg Hueckel this week to find out what policy direction will be taken by WDFW regarding temperature criteria, and regarding support of the LTTF's comment letter to NMFS. Staff continues to review and provide comments to the LTTF regarding the LTTF's response to the PDBO. Staff will be meeting with the LTTF work group again on Wednesday, November 20th, as well as attending the meeting on Thursday. In addition to the temperature criteria, it is likely the LTTF will be making recommendations that if adopted by NMFS will impact fish in the White and Puyallup Rivers.

Stream Flow Prioritization: Puyallup/White WRIA 10

Subject to Revision



- US Forest Service
- US Wildlife Refuge
- US Parks/Recreation
- USFS Wilderness Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Dept. Defense/Energy
- Wa. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- Wa. Dept. of Natural Resources
- State School/Hospital/Prison
- Wa. Parks & Recreation
- City/County Watershed/Park
- Tribal Lands
- Incorporated City

- Low priority stream
- Medium priority stream
- High priority stream
- Salmon/Bull Trout Spawning/Rearing area
- Other streams
- Canal/ditch/pipe

- USGS Stream Flow Gage
- Ecology Stream Flow Gage
- Water Right Purchase

- County
- Highway
- Local Paved Roads

WDNR/Ecology - Major Public Lands 2002 100k
 WDFW/Ecology - Hydrography, 2000 100k
 Ecology - WRIA, 2002 24K
 WDOT - Transportation, 2001 24K
 WDFW - Stream Flow Prioritization 2002
 WDFW - Spawning/Rearing Areas 2002 100k
 USGS/Ecology - Stream Gages 1:100k



Water Resources Program



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